ABSTRACT

An authentication system verifies various types of authenticity
of a visit by a forwarding agent. Further, an identity
authentication system including of an authentication card, a user
5   terminal, and a card reader. Upon insertion of the authentication
card into the card reader, the user terminal generates a random
number, stores the generated random number, and outputs the random
number to the authentication card. The authentication card
generates encrypted information by encrypting the received random
10   number using an identity certification key having been stored
therein, and outputs the generated encrypted information to the
user terminal. The user terminal decrypts the received encrypted
information using an identity authentication key having been
stored therein, and performs an authentication by judging whether
15   or not the decrypting result matches the stored random number.